

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 10615 021135Z

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SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AEGEAN
QUESTION AT NEW YORK

REF: ATHENS 10609

1. THE STATEMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS BITSIOS AND
CAGLAYANGIL AFTER THEIR OCTOBER 1 MEETING ANNOUNCING THAT
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AEGEAN QUESTION WILL RESUME ON
NOVEMBER 2 AND COMMENT BY "GOVERNMENT CIRCLES" HERE WERE
LEAD ITEMS IN THE ATHENS NEWS MEDIA OCTOBER 2. PRESS
COVERAGE TODAY REFLECTS THE ENCOURAGEMENT EXPRESSED
BY UNIDENTIFIED GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN AND "DIPLOMATIC
CIRCLES" OVER THE AGREEMENT TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS ON
NOVEMBER 2, WITH THE U.S. GETTING SOME CREDIT FOR HELPING
TO BRING THIS ABOUT.

2. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA) BULLETIN
NOTES THAT "GOVERNMENT CIRCLES YESTERDAY EXPRESSED SATIS-
FACTION WITH THE U.S. POLICY POSITIONS ON THE GREEK-
TURKISH DISPUTE. THE SAME CIRCLES, REFERRING TO YESTER-
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DAY'S MEETING BETWEEN MESSRS. BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL

ALSO STRESSED, AGAIN WITH SATISFACTION, THAT THE TURKISH SIDE HAD DISPLAYED A DESIRE FOR UNDERSTANDING. THIS FACT, COMING AFTER THE RECENT TENSION, WAS AN INDICATION OF GOODWILL WITHOUT WHICH THERE COULD BE NO PROSPECT OF A DIALOGUE."

3. THE ANA BULLETIN EXPANDED ON THE ABOVE WITH COMMENT FROM " DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES" THAT "...DEVELOPMENTS NOW BEGINNING TO EMERGE APPEARED SATISFACTORY. SPECIAL STRESS WAS LAID ON THE SENTENCE (IN THE STATEMENT NOTED ABOVE) EXPRESSING SOME TURKISH WILLINGNESS FOR UNDERSTANDING, A FACT WHICH WAS CONDUCTIVE TO DETENTE. THE CIRCLES ADDED THAT UNLESS SUCH DETENTE WERE ACHIEVED, ALL PROSPECTS FOR A DIALOGUE WOULD BE DOOMED. THE DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES ADDED THE GREEK GOVERNMENT APPRECIATED TURKEY'S DISPOSITION OF YESTERDAY, AS A MINIMUM MOVE TO BOOST THE TREND TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING. HAD TURKEY NOT SHOWN SUCH AN ATTITUDE, THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO HOPE OF A DIALOGUE, SINCE TENSION PERSISTED UP TO THE TIME THE TURKISH SIDE HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS INTENTION, THUS PROVIDING THE PREREQUISITE FOR JOINT TALKS. THE CIRCLES SAID ALSO THIS LEFT ROOM FOR REAL HOPE THAT THE TWO MINISTERS MIGHT MEET AGAIN ON 2 NOVEMBER. CONCERNING THE GOVERNMENT REMARK EXPRESSING SATISFACTION WITH THE ATTITUDE ADOPTED BY THE U.S. THE CIRCLES STRESSED THAT THE U.S. WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT SOME POSITIONS THAT COINCIDED WITH THE GREEK VIEWS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A SIGN OF SUPPORT FOR THE GREEK GOVERNMENT POLICY. IT WAS RECALLED THAT IT WAS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD OPPOSED ALL INTERVENTION IN THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE BY EITHER THE U.S., NATO, THE U.N. OR THE EEC, WHEREAS GREECE HAD SOUGHT THE OPPOSITE. U.S. INTENTIONS AS CONTAINED IN MR. KISSINGER'S SPEECH AND HIS REPORT ON THE CYPRUS ISSUED COULD, THEREFORE, BE LOOKED UPON AS SATISFACTORY TO THE GREEK SIDE." KUBISCH

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